The Strange Tales of Oscar Zahn

Stardust & Soliloquies

CHAPTER 5

THINK I FOUND THE PROBLEM PERCY. YOU'RE TRYING TO USE STANDARD VHS TAPES BUT THE DRIVE IS BETAMAX.
AH JEEZ.. NO WONDER! HOLD ON A SEC. I THINK WE HAVE A BOX OF THEM LYING AROUND HERE.
CAN YOU BELIEVE THE STUFF PEOPLE THROW OUT THESE DAYS?

OSCAR?
YOU THERE?

DAMN SHIP IS BIGGER ON THE INSIDE THAN THE OUTSIDE...

OK. SO JUST RUN THAT CABLE THROUGH THAT SPROCKET THEO. WHILE I WIND THE GUY UP.
GREAT. I'LL JUST TIGHTEN THE BOLTS AROUND HIS HELMET...

... AND VOILA!
ONE HYDRONAUT HOST, READY TO ROLL!

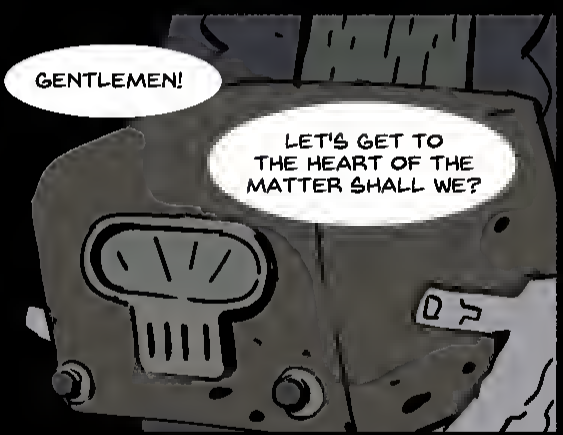
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP WITH THIS OSCAR. MAKES ME NERVOUS NOT HAVING A SPARE BODY AROUND.
WHAT A HANDSOME FELLOW! WHY, IF I WERE INCLINED TO HAVE A BODY AGAIN, I WOULD BE QUITE PLEASED WITH THIS ONE!
HECK. WE ALMOST LOST THEO THE LAST TIME HIS BODY WAS DESTROYED.

EDMUND! THERE YOU ARE!

UH.. SORRY. GIVE US A SECOND HERE. WE'RE JUST WRAPPING UP A PERSONAL MATTER.
HUP! LET'S GET THIS GUY DECENT.
HEY. WHAT IS THAT THING? IS THAT ANOTHER ONE OF YOU GUYS?

AH, SORRY ED. IT'S A BIT OF A PRIVATE AFFAIR FOR THE HYDRONAUTS.
LOCAL CUSTOMS AND ALL THAT. IT WOULDN'T INTEREST YOU.

AH... SURE...
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED ME TO BRING THE RADIO.
OH RIGHT! YES. YES. YES! I COMPLETELY FORGOT!

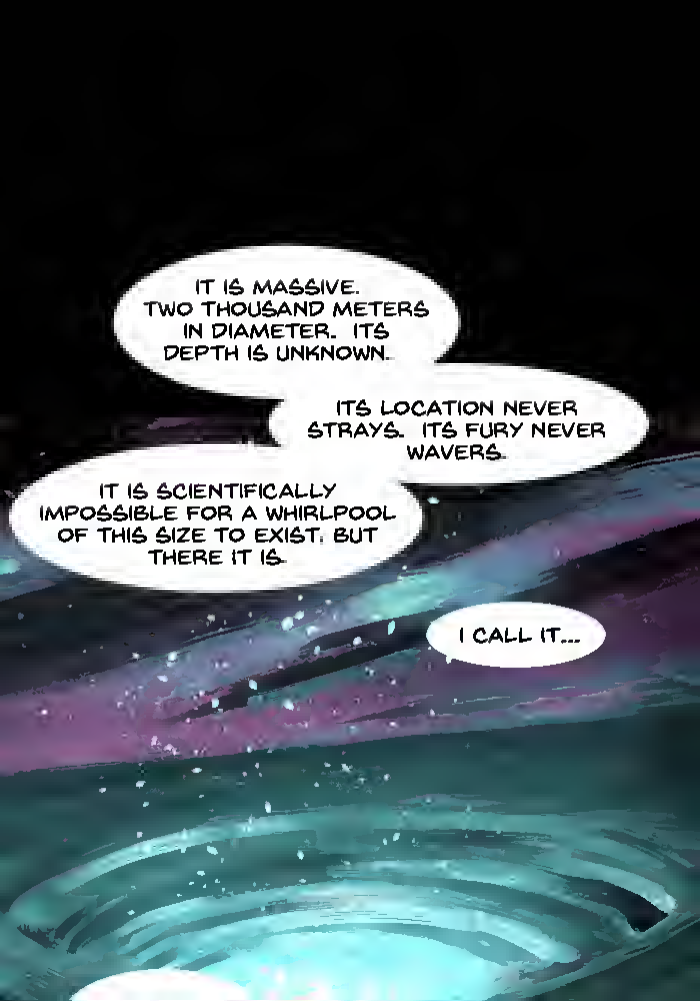

GENTLEMEN!
LET'S GET TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER SHALL WE?

THIS IS A STANDARD CONSUMER GRADE RADIO MANUFACTURED BY SMITH BROTHERS ELECTRONICS CIRCA 1935.
YOU'LL NOTICE THAT DESPITE A LACK OF AN OBVIOUS POWER SOURCE, IT'S STILL RECEIVING A SIGNAL, EVEN HERE IN THE LOWER SEAS.
I LOVE THIS SONG! DOOT DOOT DEET... DOOT...

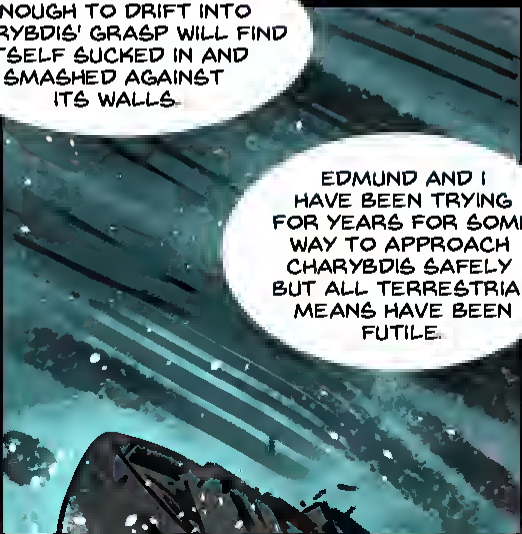
WAIT A SEC...
THAT'S NOT A SONG AT ALL! IT'S MORSE CODE!
IT'S SAYING...

SAVE OUR SOULS.

PERHAPS WE SHOULD START AT THE BEGINNING
SOMEWHERE IN THE ARCTIC CIRCLE, AT APPROXIMATELY 76° N. 100° W THERE EXISTS A MAELSTROM OF SUPERNATURAL PROPORTIONS


IT IS MASSIVE. TWO THOUSAND METERS IN DIAMETER. ITS DEPTH IS UNKNOWN.
ITS LOCATION NEVER STRAYS. ITS FURY NEVER WAVERS.
IT IS SCIENTIFICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR A WHIRLPOOL OF THIS SIZE TO EXIST, BUT THERE IT IS.
I CALL IT...

CHARYBDIS.


ANY SHIP CARELESS ENOUGH TO DRIFT INTO CHARYBDIS' GRASP WILL FIND ITSELF SUCKED IN AND SMASHED AGAINST ITS WALLS.
EDMUND AND I HAVE BEEN TRYING FOR YEARS FOR SOME WAY TO APPROACH CHARYBDIS SAFELY BUT ALL TERRESTRIAL MEANS HAVE BEEN FUTILE.

WHICH IS WHERE THE CASSIOPEIA COMES IN.

WHAT? YOU JUST SAID IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO APPROACH

MY GOD...
YOU WANT TO USE THE CASSIOPEIA TO BREACH THE VEIL AND RESURFACE NEAR THE MAELSTROM.

NO.
NOT NEAR. UNDERNEATH.
AND THAT'S THE EASY PART.
THE SIGNAL EMANATES FROM WITHIN CHARYBDIS. FOR US TO CALM THE MAELSTROM WE MUST GET TO THE SOURCE OF THE SIGNAL.

WHICH IS WHERE THIS THING COMES IN.

TO BE CONTINUED...

HEY GUYS, WELCOME BACK!

HERE WE ARE ON CHAPTER SIX OF THIS STORY AND IN MY HEART IT ALREADY FEELS LIKE CHAPTER A BILLION. I WAS JUST SAYING TO A FRIEND THAT SOMETIMES WORKING ON A COMIC FEELS LIKE STOCKHOLM SYNDROME. I HAVE NO IDEA HOW APT THIS COMPARISON IS SINCE I'VE NEVER SUFFERED FROM STOCKHOLM SYNDROME (KNOCK ON WOOD!) BUT AT TIMES IT DOES FEEL LIKE I'M A PRISONER TO THE COMIC.

NOW THAT THE WEATHER IS STARTING TO GET A LITTLE NICER IN MY NECK OF THE WOODS (YAY TORONTO!), IT'S BEEN GETTING HARDER AND HARDER FOR ME TO STAY GLUED TO MY CHAIR WORKING. AS SOON AS I LEAVE, HOWEVER, I AM STRUCK WITH CRUSHING GUILT FOR ABANDONING THE COMIC (MY BABY NEEDS ME!)

TO COMBAT THIS GUILT, I'VE BEEN RECORDING VIDEOS WHERE I TALK ABOUT WORKING (INSTEAD OF ACTUALLY, YOU KNOW, WORKING) AND POSTING THEM ON MY YOUTUBE CHANNEL. IT'S ODDLY THERAPEUTIC, SORTA LIKE DOING A LET'S PLAY EXCEPT THE VIDEO GAME IS PHOTOSHOP.

ANYWAYS, THIS WEEK I TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT MY PROCESS AND GIVE A LITTLE INSIGHT ON ONE WAY YOU CAN SPEED UP YOUR WORKFLOW IF YOU ARE WORKING ON YOUR OWN COMIC.

A BIG THANKS TO NEW PATREON SUPPORTERS:

BENSON H.
GREG M.

APPRECIATE IT GUYS!

YOU CAN FOLLOW ME ON:

INSTAGRAM: TRIVUONG
TWITTER: @TRI_VUONG
TUMBLR: TRI-VUONG.TUMBLR.COM
PATREON: PATREON.COM/TRIVUONG
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